

REMARKS

The rejection of claim 5 for indefiniteness is now moot because claim 5 is canceled.

Claims 1-9 were rejected as anticipated by Collins (US 2004/0127842) and by Mathieu (US 4478768). Claim 1 is amended to distinguish both references. Mathieu shows a line 3 with another line 12 going into line 3 and then the single line 3 goes into the filter distribution chamber. The claim calls for "both the outlet port for blood and the infusion port being connected to the housing such that they open directly to said headspace." The device of Mathieu does not have this structure. Note also that the application describes the benefit of this configuration which cannot be realized by the structure of Mathieu. New claim 21 requires "a dilution inlet directly connected to the blood outlet headspace with no intervening tubular connections between the blood outlet headspace and either of the blood outlet and the dilution inlet" which distinguishes Mathieu similarly.

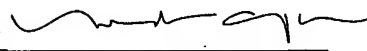
With regard to Collins, the structure in claims 1 and 21 both clearly distinguish Collins which has inlet and outlet ports connected to a cap, but they do not connect to a headspace as defined in the claim and nor does Collins show respective inlet and outlet caps.

Please proceed to examine the application as amended herein. If the Examiner wishes to discuss the application with the undersigned attorney, the Examiner is invited to call the direct lines: (Office) 202 416 5818 or (Mobile) 202 390 4992.

Respectfully submitted,
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